

Come on, America, let's strike oil.

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT BUSH ON FAILING POLICIES—WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO LEARN?

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, just how long are congressional Republicans going to follow President Bush's lead? Thanks to 7 years of Bush policies, Americans are facing skyrocketing costs for basic necessities. Millions of families have lost their homes, unemployment is rising, and 7 million more Americans are uninsured.

You would think any one of these statistics would send congressional Republicans looking for a different solution. Instead, it appears a plan to blindly follow until the finish.

When the President vetoed a bipartisan bill that would provide health coverage to 10 million children, House Republicans stood with President Bush twice in supporting his veto. When the President vetoed legislation for stem cell research that could lead to cures for diseases such as diabetes, cancer and Alzheimer's, House Republicans once again stood by President Bush and upheld his veto. Then last week a majority of Republicans refused to provide relief to 3.8 million Americans who are struggling to find new jobs.

When are congressional Republicans going to realize that following President Bush is not the answer?

SHOW US AN ENERGY PLAN

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, enough is enough.

Last week in my district in South Carolina I had a man approach me, said he wanted some help with gas prices. He is making \$325 a week, and he spends \$80 to \$90 of it on gas, almost 30 percent of his paycheck going into his tank.

What kind of leadership is this? What kind of energy plan is this?

When is the majority going to wake up and realize it's their constituents that are having problems with gas prices? When are they going to show us their energy plan, or do they even have one? The Republicans have one, and it will bring down gas prices by 50 percent. It's time Congress takes action. We need to do this for America, for our constituents and for our national security.

Bring a plan to the floor to make us all stronger. Someone needs to lead this show.

PLAN FOR ENERGY

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I listen to my friends on the other side of the aisle and they ask, what's the Democrats' plan for energy? Well, with two oilmen in the White House, it's obvious what the Republicans' plan has been, and it has been a constant increase in the price of gas since the day George Bush and DICK CHENEY took office.

There are 68 million acres under lease for oil production not being used, being hoarded, being kept out of the market. It's a red herring to say we need to drill more. It's available. What we really need to do is get off the addiction to oil.

We have learned this lesson before. We don't need to keep learning it. We need to have research and development in new ways to power this Nation.

At the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Colorado, with just tweaking the battery of a Prius, the lab reached 100 miles to the gallon. We can no longer be dependent on the Middle East for oil production. We have to change this Nation and its energy plans. To do so is good for national security, good for the climate and good for jobs.

We have to change the direction of this Nation.

HIGH GAS PRICES

(Mr. ROGERS of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak for all the hardworking people in east Alabama who are getting swamped by high gas prices. Each of us in this Chamber knows that gas is over \$5 a gallon in this country and rising. We all know that high gas prices are making everything more expensive, from groceries to clothing.

The question is what is this House going to do about it? For one, we should vote this week to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for energy exploration. We should also open the Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico.

Combined, these two locations have the potential of providing our country almost 100 billion barrels of oil. In addition, Congress must get serious about funding alternative energy research. A great example is the work being done at Auburn University in my home State of Alabama. I would like to invite my colleagues to visit the Auburn mobile bioenergy unit here in D.C. this week.

Efforts like these are critical or a critical part of the solution to high gas prices, but so is using the resources we have here at home in an environmentally sensitive way. This is just common sense, and there is nothing that should stop Congress from following this course.

COMMEMORATING THE SERVICE OF SUPERINTENDENT SANDRA BARRY TO THE ANAHEIM CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the service of Anaheim City School District Superintendent Sandra Barry and to wish her luck in her upcoming retirement.

Throughout her 11 years with the school district, including the last 8 as superintendent, Mrs. Barry has done an excellent job leading the Anaheim City School District, which is the largest elementary school district in Orange County and one of the largest in the State of California.

I applaud Superintendent Barry's commitment to the entire Anaheim community. Mrs. Barry has given her time and energy to many causes, including being on the board of directors for the Tiger Woods Foundation, the Anaheim Chamber of Commerce, the YMCA and the Police Chief Community Advisory Board. Her dedication to the community and the future of our Anaheim children is clear through her many achievements.

I sincerely thank superintendent Barry for her leadership, her commitment and her dedication to brightening the academic future of every Anaheim elementary student. She will be missed, but her lasting influence, and especially with respect to all the educators in the district, will go on for a long time in Anaheim.

I wish my good friend the best in her retirement, and I thank her for making the Anaheim City School District a great place to learn.

REDUCE OUR RELIANCE ON FOREIGN OIL

(Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I keep hearing my colleagues on the other side of the aisle say that we need to reduce our reliance on foreign oil. I couldn't agree more.

The Democrats are good at making promises, but they need to follow through on those promises. There is one thing my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are very good at saying—"no."

It seems like every option we put on the table, whether it's developing the sources of the Outer Continental Shelf, expansion of nuclear power, or opening more refineries in the United States, the answer is always no.

The Department of Interior estimates that in the Outer Continental Shelf alone, there is almost 100 billion barrels of oil and over 450 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. How high will gas prices have to go before the Democrats

start saying "yes"? \$5 a gallon? \$10 a gallon?

It's time for no more excuses. Families are hurting. Businesses are hurting. The American people are asking for help. It's time to say "yes."

REPUBLICAN PLAN OF DRILLING IN ANWR IS NOT THE ANSWER TO HIGH GAS PRICES

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, the American people are rightfully concerned about the high cost of gas, and they are looking for solutions that will provide some immediate relief. We don't need more of the stale rhetoric of the past 7 years that we have heard from the Bush administration and their so-called energy policy.

President Bush and congressional Republicans continue to argue that opening one of America's treasures, the Arctic refuge, to oil drilling will lower gas prices. That's simply not true.

Ask the experts. That is the conclusion of the Bush administration's own Energy Information Administration, which estimates that opening the Arctic refuge to drilling today will save only a few pennies a gallon 20 years from now. Sadly, this is the Republican solution to addressing the high prices that they created.

The American people are looking for action. That's exactly what this Democratic House has been doing over the past couple of months. Unfortunately, we need help from our friends across the aisle because President Bush remains committed to failed policies.

SUPPORT GROWING DOMESTIC ENERGY NEEDS

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, an 83-year-old woman told me she is paying over \$400 a month now for her energy bills, and she may end up finishing her life burning wood, like she started it.

The fact is, God has blessed this Nation with an abundance of solutions in the form of natural resources that can support growing domestic energy needs. Within 3 years, we can get a million to a million and a half barrels of oil from ANWR. Some have indicated there are three times the amount of oil left in the entire Middle East, three times that amount in shale in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah, but they can't get to it.

The limited areas that are available for lease have an 8-year lease, and they are saying it takes right at 8 years to get all the permits. Yes, there is some property under lease that they can't produce. There is some that doesn't produce. That's the energy business.

But we need to help hardworking Americans. I don't understand what

the majority leadership has against good union jobs. We are losing them every day in our district because energy prices are too high, and I want to keep those good union jobs.

□ 1030

JOBLESS BENEFITS EXTENSION

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, there is hardly a middle-class soul in our country who has not been impacted by this terrible economy. With 326,000 jobs lost, millions of Americans may lose their homes and their health care. All this as the price of food soars and the price of gas passes \$4 a gallon and wages are stagnant.

Mr. Speaker, we should invent a new word similar to stagflation that also includes gas and food. May I suggest "stagasfoodlation" to describe this terrible economy. Millions of men, women and children are caught up in an economic perfect storm not of their making where every avenue seems cut off.

Today we will have the opportunity to vote for an extension of unemployment insurance to help these American families. Republicans should not try to block this last lifeline for these families.

ESCALATING GAS PRICES

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to those urging change in the face of escalating gas prices. With the start of the summer season, the far-reaching effects of ever increasing gas prices is becoming more and more apparent.

It will result in a decrease in income for those in the travel industry, and that will lead to an increase in prices for dependent goods. As a result, the national economy will experience lower spending and higher prices. We are not now in a terrible economic situation, as some of our colleagues have said, but the high gas prices can lead to that.

Yet in the face of this self-perpetuating cycle, Democrats are not fighting for change here. We need to move our energy production technologies into the 21st century and build more coal, hydroelectric, and nuclear plants. We have ways to increase our domestic oil and gas production, as well as renewable and domestically available energy sources. At the same time, we must support the commercialization of our shale oil resources which hold enough oil to meet America's needs for more than two centuries.

Congress cannot afford to stand as an idle spectator as gas prices continue to erode the foundation of our economy. I urge Members to support Republican efforts to actively seek solutions to our

current situation. American families deserve results and it is our responsibility to see that they get them.

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, the Bush economy has lost nearly 325,000 jobs this year alone. With five straight months of job losses and the unemployment rate experiencing its sharpest spike in 22 years, it is clear that the economic downturn is hurting middle class people everywhere.

Last week, the Democratic Congress passed legislation to extend unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks to provide relief to millions of Americans who are finding it increasingly difficult to find a job.

Not only will this extension help 1.6 million Americans who have already exhausted their regular benefits, but it will also stimulate the struggling economy. For every \$1 spent on unemployment benefits, it generates \$1.64 in our economy.

Mr. Speaker, after last week's bipartisan vote, President Bush and the majority of the House Republicans should drop their opposition to this common-sense legislation so we can provide some much-needed assistance to those who are hurting under the Bush economy. Workers who are having trouble finding a job are not to be blamed for this struggling economy.

AMERICA NEEDS ENERGY PRODUCTION

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, you know after listening to my friends on the other side of the aisle, if you listen to their prescription for our energy woes, it is very much like saying we can have milk in this country without cows. They don't understand that in order to take care of the problem, you need supply.

And why do I say that, because on every single vote we have had over the last decade or so, when we talked about tar sands, Democrats voted no. When we talked about shale oil, Democrats voted no. When we talked about coal, Democrats voted no. When we talked about cleaner ways of using coal, the Democrats voted no. When we talked about offshore drilling for gas and oil, the Democrats said no. When we talked about drilling in ANWR, they voted no. When we talked about refineries, they said no. Nuclear, they said no. And sometimes they have even said no to wind if it happened to be near where they lived.

Now the problem is that the American people want solutions. We are providing an opportunity for solutions. All